

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
OLYMPIA, WA**

**To:** All Prescribers  
Pharmacies  
Regional Administrators  
CSO Administrators

**Memorandum No. 01-73 MAA**  
**Issued:** December 1, 2001

**For more information, call:**  
1-800-562-6188

**From:** Thomas W. Bedell, Acting Assistant Secretary  
Medical Assistance Administration

**Subject:** Therapeutic Consultation Service (TCS)

**Effective January 2002**, the Medical Assistance Administration (MAA) will provide Therapeutic Consultation Service (TCS) to prescribers per WAC 388-530-1260. This memorandum describes what TCS is and when TCS occurs.

## **What is TCS?**

TCS is Therapeutic Consultation Service. Through TCS, MAA provides a complete drug profile review for each client when a drug claim for that client triggers a TCS. Profiles are provided by MAA-designated clinical pharmacists and reviewed with prescriber or prescriber's designee by telephone.

The purpose of TCS is to:

- Aid appropriate utilization of prescription drugs;
- Improve quality of care and health care outcomes for MAA clients; and
- Promote cost effectiveness.

## **When will TCS occur?**

TCS occurs when a drug claim:

- Exceeds four brand name prescriptions per calendar month; or
- Is for a nonpreferred drug within MAA's selected therapeutic classes (see MAA's Preferred Drug List on page two of this memorandum).

When a pharmacy provider submits a claim that exceeds the TCS limitations for a client, or submits a claim for a non-preferred drug, MAA generates a Point-of-Sale (POS) computer alert to notify the pharmacy provider that a TCS is required. The computer alert provides a toll-free telephone number [(866) 246-8504] for the prescriber or prescriber's designee to call.



**Continued on next page....**

## Drugs excluded from the four brand name prescription per calendar month limit

MAA excludes the following from the four brand name prescriptions per calendar month limit:

- Antidepressants;
- Antipsychotics;
- Chemotherapy;
- Contraceptives;
- HIV;
- Immunosuppressants;
- Hypoglycemia rescue agents; and
- Generic drugs.

## Preferred Drug List

MAA chooses a drug or drugs from a selected therapeutic class for placement on the preferred list when:

- The drugs in the class are essentially equal in terms of safety and efficacy; and
- The selected drug or drugs may be the least costly in the therapeutic class.

MAA's Preferred Drug List	
Selected Therapeutic Class	Preferred Drug
Histamine H2 Receptor Antagonist (H2RA)	Ranitidine
Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)	Protonix®



Continued on next page....

## What should I do when I get a POS computer alert for a TCS review?

### Pharmacy Provider Requirements:

- The pharmacy provider must notify the prescriber that the prescriber or prescriber designee must call the TCS toll-free telephone number [(866) 246-8504] to begin a TCS review.
- If the TCS review cannot take place because the prescriber or prescriber's designee is unavailable, the pharmacy provider has the option to dispense an emergency supply of the requested drug. (Refer to MAA's Prescription Drug Program Billing Instructions, page G.1, for further information regarding emergency dispensing.)

### Prescriber Provider Requirements:

- When the pharmacy provider contacts the client's prescriber, the prescriber or prescriber's designee must call the TCS toll-free telephone number [(866) 246-8504] to begin a TCS review.
- After the prescriber or prescriber's designee and the MAA-designated clinical pharmacist review the client's drug profile and discuss clinically sound options and cost effective alternative drug(s), the prescriber may choose to do one of the following:
  - ✓ Change the prescription to an alternate drug or preferred drug and contact the client's pharmacy with the new prescription;
  - ✓ Provide the MAA designee with the medical justification and continue with the brand-name drug; or
  - ✓ Does not agree to prescribe an alternative drug or preferred drug and does not provide medical justification for the requested drug. In this case:
    - The MAA designee authorizes a one-month supply of the requested drug with no refills and sends the initiating prescriber a copy of the client's drug profile and a therapy authorization turnaround form.
    - The prescriber signs the therapy authorization turnaround form and returns it to the MAA designee.
    - Upon receipt of the therapy authorization turnaround form, the MAA designee authorizes six additional months of the requested drug.



State of Washington  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
PO Box 9245, Olympia, WA 98507-9245

PRSRSTD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WASHINGTON STATE  
DEPARTMENT OF PRINTING

*Change Service Requested*

**Important Information.  
Please open immediately!**